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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 1615

GIBSON ET AL.

APPLICATION NO: 10/721,652

FILED: NOVEMBER 25, 2003

FOR: PREBIOTIC COMPOSITIONS

MS: Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION AND AMENDMENT

Dear Examiner:

The following comments and amendments are made in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on 31 January 2006, in respect of the above-entitled application for patent. Entry of this Reply and Amendment is respectfully requested.

In response to the subject Office Action, Applicant herein amends the claims and provides remarks regarding the listed rejections.

Applicants also herein request a three month extension for this response as allowed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). The Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis Corporation for the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a).

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application for patent.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 4.